



January 6, 2014

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

The Iowa League of Cities would like to share its concern about problems that could potentially afflict the 2015 spectrum incentive auction, which the FCC is overseeing. Our organization was founded in 1898 to strengthen our communities by serving as the unified voice of Iowa's cities, and now boasts more than 870 big and small member cities across the state. Every one of our cities strives to guarantee that Iowa's families have safe and secure communities in which to grow and thrive. One of the cornerstones of this effort is the public safety community. We count on our first responders to protect us and our children, and anything that compromises their ability to keep our communities safe is of great concern to this organization.

Effective communication is the foundation of any successful public safety effort. Communication among police, fire, and emergency medical services should be seamless to mitigate risk and get people out of harm's way. In our increasingly interconnected world, communication between cities needs to be seamless as well. The more dangerous a situation is, the truer this becomes. For instance, victims of severe car accidents and burns as well as other traumatic injuries have a much better chance at survival if treated within an hour of the incident. Yet, public safety communication capabilities are far behind that of the Iowans they are working diligently to protect.

Despite legislation allowing for FirstNet in 2012, fulfilling the 9/11 Commission's recommendation for a nationwide, interoperable wireless network dedicated solely for emergency responder use has yet to be launched. Our organization wants to make sure that FirstNet, once created, has the capabilities to provide a world-class network that will give emergency responders a tool that will save lives and best protect our communities.

The Iowa League of Cities hopes that the FCC has taken the proper steps to ensure that FirstNet is funded at the appropriate levels to be able to accomplish this goal. Our organization is not involved in the technical details of how this process will take place, nor are we advocating for one particular avenue. What we wanted to stress is that any approach that is adopted by the FCC should in first part create a 21st century communications systems that will benefit local communities across the country and secondly make sure that this operation is funded at an appropriate level to secure its effectiveness in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan W. Kemp".

Alan W. Kemp
Executive Director